



Monday Morning Eye-Opener December 16, 2019

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



Revamping Certification Courses



Program Improvements in 2020

2019 is winding down and with it our education offerings for the year. But our staff is anxious to share exciting education news on the horizon in 2020. The State Library will be revamping our certification program for directors and staff.

The Public Library Management courses (PLM) along with the Public Library Support Staff course (PLS) will be getting a welcome facelift in 2020. While the class content has been revised several times over the years to keep current with trends and changes in laws, the actual delivery format has stayed largely the same. In addition, in November we welcomed Samantha Bouwers as our new Continuing Education Coordinator. Samantha will be instrumental in bringing forward a fresh approach to online education.

Because of this revamp, the State Library will not schedule PLM or PLS next year in its current form. Library directors who need to complete certification to achieve standards and / or to achieve accreditation will be given an extension; we'll work with all individuals affected by this change.

Re-certification

But please remember that this reconstruction only affects initial certification. All library staff and directors needing to re-certify can take any classes at any time, whether from the State Library of Iowa or from other education providers. Look to our [C.E. Catalog](#) for classes like **ILOC—Innovative Iowa Libraries Online Conference** coming up on **January 16**. There are **All Iowa Reads** webinars

scheduled in late January, another **Big Ideas Book Discussion** program in February, and more to come in the spring.

Again, the coming certification reboot will not impact anyone up for re-certification in 2019. Assuming everyone up for re-certification this month has earned the 45 credit hours needed to renew by December 31st, then proceed to apply for re-certification by January 31, 2020.

Stay Tuned!

We'll be ready with more detailed information by the January 6th **Monday Morning Eye-Opener**. In the meantime, you're welcome to contact Samantha Bouwers with questions samantha.bouwers@iowa.gov



BookBrowse
Your guide to exceptional books

A Top20 List From BookBrowse

If you're not familiar with **BookBrowse**, it's an *"affordable, reader-focused, and user-friendly readers' advisory solution for public libraries. BookBrowse recommends the best in contemporary fiction and nonfiction, featuring books across a range of genres—mainly for adults with some outstanding young adult titles—that not only engage and entertain but also deepen our understanding of ourselves and the world around us..."*

BookBrowse awards are different from other "top lists" because the editors don't simply count raw votes (which favors the most widely read books) Instead, only subscribers can vote from titles on a short list; ballot stuffing is restricted because voting is extended only to subscribers. **Among BookBrowse Top 20 List For 2019 are these four award-winners:**

- The BookBrowse Award for **Best Nonfiction Book** goes to **Michelle Obama's *Becoming***. *Becoming* was published in November 2018, but made the 2019 list because voting takes place in November and therefore books published in the last two months of 2018 were eligible.
- The **Best Fiction Book Award** goes to **Elizabeth Strout for *Olive, Again***, her sequel to *Olive Kitteridge* published ten years after the original. Readers were thrilled to return to this beloved character's stubborn but poignant perspective, and Strout's exceptional writing skills all but guarantee every outing will be a success.
- **The Best Young Adult title == Thanhha Lai's *Butterfly Yellow***. This moving novel about a teenage Vietnamese refugee's search for her brother through Texas in 1981 is Lai's second book, but her first for a YA audience. Her

children's debut, *Inside Out and Back Again*, won the 2011 National Book Award for Young People's Literature and the 2012 Newbery Medal.

- The **Best Debut Author Award** == **Solitary** by **Albert Woodfox**. In this remarkable memoir, the author writes of his four decades in solitary confinement for a crime he did not commit. It is a story of hope in the face of impossible circumstances and a call to action for prison reform. *Solitary* was also a finalist for the National Book Award.

BookBrowse offers a free newsletter and while some of their content on the company website is free, even more is accessible to paid subscribers. Click below to learn more about what's available to subscribers.

[Read About BookBrowse](#)

Summer Reading Workshops



**Online This Month ...
Organized By Library Size**

Youth Services Consultant Angie Manfredi is conducting Summer Reading Workshops online this month, but with a unique twist. Library staff can choose the session that best matches their community size, giving youth services staff a chance to talk with colleagues from like-size libraries about how they run their summer programs.

The first 30 minutes will be an introduction to the summer 2020 theme "Imagine Your Story" and a general review of the manual. The next 90 minutes will be facilitated discussion about summer programming. This is a chance to talk with other librarians about their successes and challenges, to get ideas and inspiration. Feel free to attend the session that best matches your needs and come ready to share and discuss!

Register for an online session based on your library's size:

- **Library Sizes A, B, C:** Tuesday, December 17 from 1:00-3:00PM
- **Library Sizes D, E, F:** Wednesday, December 18 from 1:00-3:00PM
- **Library Sizes G and Above:** Thursday, December 19 from 1:00-3:00PM

Register Today !

This Week ...



The **Summer Reading Workshops** described above finish out our education offerings for 2019. But look to the [C.E. Catalog](#) for a preview of continuing education in the new year. From **ILOC**—our all day online conference on **January 16**—to **All Iowa Reads** webinars later in January to another **Big Ideas Book Discussion** in

February, there's much more to come in 2020 when our education theme will focus on project management.

In the meantime, For many library directors and staff, December is the month to gather certification credits and make sure you have enough to renew. If your certification expires on December 31, 2019, then you will need to apply for re-certification in January 2020. Click the button to learn how.

Re-certification Instructions

No ***Monday Morning Eye-Opener*** next week...just one more issue on **December 30th**

to finish out this year. From everyone on staff at the State Library of Iowa, wishing you a **Very Merry Christmas!**



Monday Morning Eye-Opener

Editor: [Bonnie McKewon](#)



1112 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319



Stay Connected with the [State Library of Iowa](#):



[Manage Subscriptions](#) [Help](#)



Powered by



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)